

State Board of Education
January 15, 2008
Item O-1

2008 FOCUS STRATEGY

Make forward progress on the Board's Desired State as adopted on October 3, 2007. Topical areas will include:

- 21st Century Skills and a definition of readiness for future education and work
- School Quality Standards and graduation requirements
- Parent engagement and involvement
- Teaching best practices, teacher preparation and teacher learning communities
- Leadership
- Individual student learning plans and student advising
- Full integration of technology into the learning process
- Alternative learning environments

2008 Focus Strategy				
Make forward progress on the Board's Desired State as adopted on October 3, 2007. Topical areas will include:				
Topic Area	Responsible	Current Status	Target Date	Notes
▪ 21 st Century Skills and a definition of readiness for future education and work	Brian O'Regan, Dave White, Kay Charron, Bill Romond		03/18/08 SBE	
▪ School Quality Standards and graduation requirements	Brian O'Regan; Gail Taylor	12/18/07 SBE discussion		
▪ Parent engagement and involvement		10/16/07 SBE discussion		
▪ Teaching best practices, teacher preparation and teacher learning communities			02/19/08 SBE	
▪ Leadership	Brian O'Regan; VELC		02/06/08 Joint discussion with VELC and Vermont Business-Education Alliance; 02/19/08 SBE	
▪ Individual student learning plans and student advising			06/17/08 SBE	
▪ Full integration of technology into the learning process			04/08/08 SBE	
▪ Alternative learning environments			05/20/08 SBE	

2006-07 STRATEGIES
SBE Consensus, 08-08-06

Focus Strategy	Identifier	Accomplishments to Date
Develop, coordinate, and improve administrative and educational leadership skills in the State of Vermont by working with the Vermont Educational Leadership Collaborative (VELC).	II.C.2	Update at 4/10/07 SBE meeting; VELC continues to meet under Brian O'Regan's leadership.
In collaboration with the VSPBE, advance regulations that expand options for alternate routes to licensure that produce well qualified teachers	I.E.4	Final proposed revisions approved 05/15/07 - COMPLETED
Engage the people of Vermont in a conversation about the quality, cost and governance of our education system, with a focus on student success combined with high standards.	V.D.5	Section 19 of Act 82 of 2007 report delivered to House and Senate Education Committees on 11/30/07.
Analyze performance data at all grade levels to quantify gaps in student performance (based on gender, poverty and ethnicity); then develop recommendations to address any identified gaps.	I.A.5	NEIREL research and reports: 03/20/07; 05/15/07; 06/19/07; DOE NEIREL staff continue to work on follow-up recommendations;
Develop options/models of technology integration to improve the delivery of high quality instruction to serve all students; Develop options/models for distance learning to improve the delivery of high quality instruction to serve all students.	V.D.2	DOE Leadership Team work on creating a new vision for education in Vermont maximizing the use of technology and distance learning with an emphasis on student competency culminated with adoption of the SBE/DOE's <i>How Are the Children? A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont</i> document on 10/03/07.

2005-06 STRATEGIES

Focus Strategy	Identifier	Accomplishments to Date
Develop, coordinate, and improve administrative and educational leadership skills in the State of Vermont by working with the Vermont Educational Leadership Collaborative (VELC)	II.C.2	Continued as a Focus Strategy for 06-07
Gain an understanding of the issues associated with early education in order to develop a position on a coordinated statewide system of early childhood education	I.A.1	H.534 signed into law 06/11/07; Pre-K rules approved for rulemaking process by SBE on 11/20/07;
Examine, in collaboration with the VSBPE, roles and relationships of the State Board of Education and the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators with a focus on policy issues relating to high quality alternate routes to licensure	I.E.4	Continued, with revision, as a Focus Strategy for 06-07
Enhance SBE decision making through two-way communication with educational leadership organizations, school boards, legislative education committees, parents, home study groups, and post-secondary education institutions	II.C.3	Monthly Board Report developed and distributed; Visitor Time established on monthly Board agenda; Focus Strategies updated on a regular basis; Parent participation at 10/16/07 SBE forum;
Analyze the cost and quality of education in Vermont in comparison to national data and develop specific recommendations to contain costs while ensuring the quality of education	V.D.6	Continued, with revision, as a Focus Strategy for 06-07;
Develop a long-term plan for implementation of the K-12 expectations for Modern and Classical (non-native*) Languages within the <i>Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities</i> .	I.D.2	Ad Hoc Committee established; Committee met with partners and held statewide focus forums during Fall 2005/Winter Board adopted goal statement at 02/21/06 meeting; Study Committee, chaired by Vice Chair, appointed – initial meeting held 09/13/06; Working meetings held 10/5/06, 11/2/06, 12/7/06; 02/01/07; 03/08/07; 03/29/07; Sub-committee working on developing recommendations for consideration by full committee; Committee disbanded.

2004-05 STRATEGIES

Focus Strategy	Identifier	Accomplishments to Date
Continue support for the implementation of the <i>High Schools on the Move</i> principles as the statewide vision for secondary education	I.A.4	DOE Leadership Team work on creating a new vision for education in Vermont with an emphasis on student competency culminated with adoption of the SBE/DOE's <i>How Are the Children? A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont</i> document on 10/03/07.
Develop a public school choice proposal by 01/01/05, for submission to the Legislature	I.A.8	Board adopted recommendation for legislative language at its 02/20/07 meeting; Legislative bills filed.
Adopt measurable School Quality Standards by 06/30/05	I.D.1	Revised School Quality Standards adopted 10/18/05 and approved by LCAR on 01/25/06, Revised SQS Rules effect 02/09/06; Implementation process on hold pending outcomes from Transformation discussions.
Ensure that State Board members receive appropriate professional development.	II.A.1	SBE approved professional development policy at its 12/21/04 meeting - COMPLETED.
Allocate resources and prioritize budget initiatives by October Board meeting (annually)	IV.B.3	COMPLETED – Development process in place.
Analyze the cost and quality of education in Vermont in comparison to national data and develop specific recommendations to contain costs while ensuring the quality of education, by 06/30/05	V.D.6	Continued as a Focus Strategy for 05-06.